

EPA Recognizes Tempe for Smart Growth Achievements

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today congratulated the City of Tempe for being one of four cities to win the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Achievement Award.

The Smart Growth Achievement Award recognizes cities that are models of how to grow in ways that protect our nation's air, land, and water; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; provide safe and affordable housing; and strengthen local economies.

"As both a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Tempe, I am proud that Tempe has been recognized for its commitment to being a green and environmentally sustainable community," said Mitchell. "I want to congratulate Tempe city staff and the City Council for their vision and leadership in earning this award, and I hope that my hometown will continue to serve as an example of the possibilities of sustainable design.

For Smart Growth and Green Building, the City of Tempe is being honored for the Tempe Transportation Center, which incorporates innovative and green building elements, tailored to the Southwest desert environment as part of its sustainable design. The Tempe Transportation Center is a multi-modal facility that integrates a light rail stop, the main city bus station, and paths for bicyclists and pedestrians. Tempe designed the Transportation Center as a multi-use green facility that is not only a transportation hub, but also a gathering spot for the community.

Other winners include Lancaster County Planning Commission for Envision Lancaster County, the City of Charlotte for Urban Street Design Guidelines and the Chicago Housing Authority, FitzGerald Associates Architects and Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation for Parkside of Old Town.

The award winners demonstrate the community benefits of aligning housing, transportation, and environmental objectives, one of the key goals of the new Partnership for Sustainable Communities between EPA, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. EPA created the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement in 2002 to recognize exceptional approaches to development that protect the environment, foster economic vitality, and enhance quality of life. Over the past eight years, 623 communities in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have applied to EPA to be considered for this award. In addition to presenting the annual awards, EPA's Smart Growth Program helps America's communities turn their visions of the future into reality through research, tools, partnerships, case studies, grants, and technical assistance.

More information on the winners and EPA's Smart Growth Program: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/>

More information on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/partnership>